

May is APA Heritage Month

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month originated in June 1977 when Reps. Frank Horton (NY) and Norman Y. Mineta (CA) called for the establishment of Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. Hawaii senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both bills passed, and in 1978 President Jimmy Carter signed the resolution. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush expanded the celebration from a week to a month.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated to commemorate the arrival in May 1843 of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States and the role of Chinese laborers in the completion of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.

Full history from the Library of Congress: [Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month](#)

Government Has to Stop Its Own Anti-Asian Bias and Racial Profiling

On April 27, 2021, USA Today published an opinion: [The FBI wrongly accused my father of spying for China. Our government has anti-Asian bias, too.](#) "Mainstream narratives around anti-Asian violence have often overlooked a simple fact: The same federal government that recently expressed sympathy for Asian American communities has long perpetuated harm against our communities, and continues to do so," wrote Joyce Xi, daughter of Temple University Professor Xiaoxing Xi. "As the country moves from righteous outrage toward the longer-term work of protecting our communities, we must also look at the bigger picture. Truly combating anti-Asian racism will require addressing the government's role in it... While there are legitimate concerns regarding the Chinese government, there is a major human cost to casting suspicion on entire communities based on national origin. The FBI's record of racial, ethnic and religious profiling has left a devastating trail, including in Muslim, Black and Indigenous communities. As anti-Asian — particularly anti-China — sentiment and bias continue to grow, I fear the U.S. government will cause many more people to experience what my family did, especially if there is no opportunity to challenge the government's wrongdoing in court." Read more at <https://bit.ly/3xqygW6>

On May 8, 2021, the Chinese American Scholar Forum will host a webinar: Challenges Facing Academics in the US Suspected as Nontraditional Collectors for China, featuring Temple University Professor Xiaoxing Xi and moderated by Princeton Professor Rory Truex. Register for this webinar here: <https://bit.ly/3vyAZze>

In the April 26, 2021, Bloomberg report titled "[Anti-Asian Atmosphere Chills Chinese Scientists Working in U.S.](#)," an explosion of hate attacks against Asian Americans in the past year has been blamed on the xenophobic rhetoric of former President Trump, particularly his racist broadsides labeling the novel coronavirus the "Chinese virus" and "kung flu." But other U.S. leaders and institutions have helped inflame the situation, arousing particular suspicion toward

people of Chinese descent. Peter Michelson, a physics professor and senior associate dean for the natural sciences at Stanford University, blames FBI Director Wray's "whole-of-society" hyperbole for whipping up anti-Chinese fervor at some companies and campuses, fueling exaggerated mistrust of Chinese graduate students and engineers. "You don't cast a broad net like that. That's profiling," says Michelson, who co-chairs a project of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences to strengthen international science partnerships. "We're trying to attract talent to this country, but I think some of his rhetoric, while perhaps unintended, puts a target on people's back. Words do matter." Read more at <https://bit.ly/32OCtZL>

On April 23, 2021, Asian Americans Advancing Justice submitted a [comment to NIH](#) raising concerns about the racial profiling of Asian American and Asian immigrant scientists, researchers, and scholars, particularly those of Chinese descent, and urging the agency to take action in addressing NIH's role in these efforts. Last month, NIH launched an open call to the public for comments on ways in which the agency can address structural racism and achieve racial equity in biomedical research. Over 220 community organizations, civil rights groups, science associations, academics, and concerned citizens signed on to the comment. Some of the signatories include people who have been directly impacted by government targeting and profiling.

Under the Department of Justice's "China Initiative," scientists, researchers, and scholars of Asian descent are facing mass investigations and unjust prosecutions under the pretext of combating economic espionage. The White House mandate under the "China Initiative" pressured the FBI and NIH to heavily scrutinize Asian Americans and Asian immigrants. The FBI collaborated with NIH to conduct probes into researchers with 82% of those under investigation being of Asian descent. As a result, federal agencies have injected racial bias into our academic institutions encouraging staff to treat Asian American and immigrant scientists and researchers as suspects. NIH intervention and investigations have led to the dismissal, resignation, and termination of Asian scientists, contributing to a growing fear among Asian Americans and Asian immigrants of being targeted and scapegoated based on their race, ethnicity, and national origin.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice urges the NIH to address these concerns and listen to the many community members, civil rights organizations, science associations and impacted persons who support this comment. We call attention to the tremendous harm to Asian Americans and Asian immigrants in the scientific research environment and the broader community. We ask NIH to implement our recommendations, including minimizing entanglements with the FBI, providing clear guidelines, examining procedures to eliminate bias, and including the needs and concerns of Asian Americans in its efforts to address racial profiling and promote racial equity within NIH, NIH-supported institutions, and the greater scientific community. Read the letter at <https://bit.ly/3gKVHaL>

On April 21, 2021, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee backed [the Strategic Competition Act of 2021](#) (S.1169), which labels China a strategic competitor in multiple areas. A group of higher education organizations - Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, American Council on Education, and Association of American Medical Colleges - sent [a letter to the Senate Committee](#) to express their opposition to Section 138 of the bill which would require the Committee on Foreign

Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review many gifts and contracts offered to the nation's colleges, universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals.

Heritage Month Activities to Stop Anti-Asian Hate with the Yellow Whistle

The APA Heritage Month will kick off with events and rallies across the nation in partnership with the Yellow Whistle Campaign.

In the nation's capital on May 4, 2021, William Tong, Attorney General of Connecticut; Karl Racine, Attorney General of the District of Columbia, in conjunction with the Attorney General Alliance, is inviting the public to [A Community United: A National Convening Against Anti-AAPI Hate](#). This national convening pairs leading experts across government and industry with a focus on educational and actionable steps that can be used to address the rise of hate targeting the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) community. The goal is to assist the public, policymakers, advocacy, business, and legal communities in identifying AAPI hate and stopping it from taking root in our communities. The event will be broadcast live and is available to the public. No registration is necessary, the virtual broadcast link is available here: <https://bit.ly/3vsQTLp>

As part of the nationwide Community Against Hate Rally on May 15, 2021, [the Washington DC rally](#) is scheduled to take place at Freedom Plaza, about two blocks from the White House, starting at 2:00 pm ET. Confirmed speakers include Maryland State Senator Susan Lee, who blew the "We Belong" yellow whistle and called for taking a stand and speaking up in solidarity in Wednesday's webinar on the "China Initiative," as well as Maryland and Virginia state senators and delegates. Read more about the Yellow Whistle Campaign and events at <https://bit.ly/2RDZMmB>

**#WeBelong #TheYellowWhistle #StopAAPIHate #StopAsianHate
#StopRacialProfiling**



8BY8

STOP ASIAN HATE

Celebrate Asian Heritage Month!

- Bring awareness to Asian hate crime
- See exhibits celebrating Asian heritage and history, booths offering goodies for #8by8 challenge participants, and more!
- Register to vote on-site with the help of the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters!
- Organized by Greg Lin Tanaka & Lydia Kou

PALO ALTO RALLY SUNDAY, MAY 2ND

2 PM: RALLY MARCH

- START: 528 High St. (Garage R.)

3 PM: SPEECHES

- 250 Hamilton (City Hall)

4 PM: BOOTHS OPEN

SPEAKERS



Fiona Ma
California State Treasurer



Mike Honda
Former Congressman



Steve Westly
Former California
State Controller



Jenny Ming
Poshmark and Levi Strauss
Board of Directors,
Old Navy Co-Founder



Greg Lin Tanaka
Palo Alto City Councilmember,
Rally Organizer



Lydia Kou
Palo Alto City Councilmember,
Rally Organizer



Deborah Liu
Ancestry CEO,
Intuit Board Member



Yul Kwon
Winner of Survivor: Cook Islands,
Google Sr. Director



Marc Berman
Assemblymember



Eric J. Chang
California Department of Justice
Deputy Attorney General



Anna Mok
Ascend Foundation President



Gilbert Wong
Foothill-De Anza
Board of Trustees

BOOTHS, EXHIBITS, & SPONSORS

Yellow "We Belong" Whistles

Provided to all attendees by the *Yellow Whistle™*

Food & Baked Goods

Provided to #8by8 challenge participants by
The Midwife and the Baker, Douce France,
and *Kirk's Steakburgers*

Milk Tea

Provided to #8by8 challenge participants by
Randolph & Ashley Tsien

Voter Registration Booth

Provided by the *Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters*

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association Peninsula Chapter (APAPA-PNC)

Palo Alto Chinese Parents' Club (PACPC)

Exhibit: Arboretum Chinese Labor Quarters Project (ACLQ) at Stanford University

Provided on behalf of *Adrian & Monica Yeung Arima:*

Exhibit: Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University

Music by Dan Zalles (Slide Dogs)

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